

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Entry of this amendment is deemed proper under Rule 116, inasmuch as it places this application in condition for allowance.

Claim amendments/Status

In this response, the allowable subject matter of claim 9 is introduced into claim 1, and claims 5-7 and 9-10 are cancelled. This amendment is deemed, in combination with the dependency amendment of claim 11, to place the pending claims in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

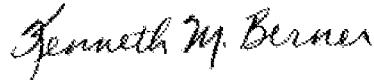
The rejection of claims 1-3, 5-8, 10 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yntema et al. (US Patent 3,862,803) in view of Halldorsson et al. (US Patent 5,960,022) is, of course, rendered moot by the amendments/cancellations discussed *supra*.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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